

THE VOLUNTEER STAR

a monthly newsletter from your friends at the



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
SERVE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER



2024 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Register today at:
www.kanserve.org

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

APRIL 10, 2024

Co-hosted by the Kansas Volunteer Commission and Emporia
State University School of Humanities and Social Sciences



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

EMPORIA STATE
UNIVERSITY



The [Kansas Volunteer Commission](http://www.kanserve.org) and Emporia State University School

of Humanities + Social Sciences are excited to announce the 2024 Civic Engagement Conference. The conference will be held Wednesday, April 10, at Emporia State University Memorial Union in Emporia, KS. The theme of the conference is “Empowering Kansas through Civic Engagement”.

The [Call for Proposals](#) is open and we are seeking proposals for 50-minute workshops.

The \$25 registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, and networking opportunities.

[Register Here](#)

AMERICORPS KANSAS PLANNING GRANT NOFO



The [AmeriCorps Kansas Planning Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) is now available!

AmeriCorps Planning Grants enable organizations to plan a proposed AmeriCorps program and develop (or replicate) systems for successful implementation of an AmeriCorps operational grant application. Organizations use planning grants to become better prepared to compete for an AmeriCorps program grant in the subsequent grant cycle (2025-2026).

Application due date is February 16, 2024.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH!



National Mentoring Month

Established in January 2002, National Mentoring Month celebrates the powerful impact of mentoring relationships and raises awareness about

the increased need for caring adults to become mentors in their communities. Today, one-third of young people in the United States feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside their homes, resulting in a “mentoring gap.”

Mentors provide youth with the support, encouragement, and guidance they need to succeed through academic and personal challenges. The pandemic has taken a toll on young people, and it’s more important than ever to close the mentoring gap and equip youth with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives. Every January, the mentoring movement unites in celebration of National Mentoring Month and uses the power of our collective voice to recruit new mentors, advance the mentoring field’s legislative priorities, and drive meaningful change for young people.

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 9, 2024: I Am A Mentor Day
- January 15, 2024: Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service
- January 17, 2024: International Mentoring Day
- January 25, 2024: Thank Your Mentor Day

MENTOR CAPACITY BUILDING MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITY

MENTOR CAPACITY BUILDING MINI-GRANT

**GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION
AVAILABLE AT [KANSERVE.ORG](https://kanserve.org)**

Application due: 2/5/2024



Mentor Kansas announces the availability of grants to support youth mentoring initiatives that implement or enhance one or more of the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring (EPPM) and its supplements.

The EPPM provides a set of evidence-based standards that ensure consistent, effective, and safe mentoring. The supplements to the EPPM expand on best practices to include diverse youth populations or industries that support youth leaders in areas of LGBTQ, E-mentoring, group, peer, STEM, workplace, critical mentoring, and youth with disabilities.

Learn more and download application materials here: [Mentor Capacity Building Mini-Grant \(ksde.org\)](https://ksde.org)

KANSAS MENTORING MONTH PROCLAMATION



STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, Kansas recognize that our success depends on helping every child thrive in school and reach their full potential in life, and to accomplish this, young Kansans need a solid foundation of positive support to help them become well-educated, confident, productive, and engaged citizens of their communities; and

WHEREAS, mentoring is a proven, effective strategy that helps children and young adults by matching them with a safe, caring, and responsible role-model who can provide support, guidance and direction, and build their confidence; and

WHEREAS, mentors build character, encourage success, boost confidence, lift expectations, serve as friends, role models, teachers, and sources of stability and support during a critical time in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, research shows that mentoring has beneficial and long-term effects on youth by increasing their chances of high school graduation and college attendance and improving their overall economic, physical, educational, and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, mentoring strengthens Kansas's economic and social well-being by helping young people fulfill their potential while helping maintain healthy families and promoting more vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Kansas children are in need of a caring, adult mentor in their lives and closing this mentoring gap requires more investment, partnerships, and volunteers ready to make a difference in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, Mentor Kansas, a program of the Kansas State Department of Education, works with mentoring programs to increase the number of young Kansans being served by quality mentoring relationships in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Mentoring Month is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the importance of youth mentoring, recognize the dedicated individuals who serve as mentors, and encourage more citizens to build a brighter future for Kansas youth through mentoring.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim, January 2024, as

Kansas Mentoring Month

in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 20th day of
November, A.D. 2023

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Scott Schubert
Secretary of State

Jennifer Leach
Assistant Secretary of State

2024 MINI GRANT SERIES

Guidelines and Application release dates

ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE FOR MENTORING

Releases: 1/05/2024

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Releases: 2/09/2024

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 3/22/2024

SOCIAL JUSTICE & CAPACITY BUILDING

Releases: 4/26/2024

RURAL & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Releases: 5/31/2024

9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 7/05/2024

MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 10/04/2024



MLK MINI-GRANT AWARDEES

Congratulations!

MLK DAY OF SERVICE SUBGRANTEES

THE KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION AWARDED TEN ORGANIZATIONS MORE THAN \$22,000.00 TOWARDS MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE PROJECTS.

- CHILDREN'S 1ST CEO OF KANSAS
- CROSS-LINES COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- FOUR COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC.
- HANDS-ON K-STATE
- KANSAS FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL CARE
- LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- NEWTON COMMUNITY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
- ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
- UNITED WAY OF KAW VALLEY
- WICHITA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



The Kansas Volunteer Commission has awarded ten organizations more than \$22,000 towards MLK National Day of Service Projects.

Learn More about the MLK Mini-Grant:

THANK YOU COMMISSIONERS!



*Thank you for your
volunteer service!*

KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSIONERS

Amy Pinger - Topeka, KS
Ginger Williams - Lenexa, KS
David Battey - Fairway, KS
Carolyn Campbell - Topeka, KS
Daniel Cruz - Kansas City, MO
Selena Eckstrom - Olathe, KS
Melanie Hass - Overland Park, KS
Linn Hogg - Great Bend, KS
Barbara Hickert - Topeka, KS
Ben Jones - Pratt, KS
Stephanie Kupper - Overland Park, KS
Cindy Miles - Wichita, KS
Emily Riner - Lecompton, KS
Mark Stump - Wichita, KS

KANSERVE.ORG

Thank you to the Kansas Volunteer Commission's Volunteer Commissioners! We could not do this work without you!

Apply to become a commissioner at:

<https://governor.kansas.gov/serving-kansans/office-of-appointments/>

STAFF & COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT



**GINGER WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER, HONORED AS ONE OF THE
"SERVICE VISIONARIES 100"**

The Service Visionaries 100 awards epitomize the pinnacle of success for thought leaders in the realm of service, embodying a spirit of innovation and transformational leadership that shapes the landscape of service and customer experience. Our robust selection process is spearheaded by a respected panel of judges comprised of renowned industry specialists. Their mission is to identify those game-changers who have proactively driven transformation in their organizations as nominated by our community of C-suite and business leaders.

This award acknowledges the considerable contributions these individuals have made, challenging conventional thinking and implementing cutting-edge service solutions, thereby propelling their organizations into the future.

<https://hottopics.ht/awards/service-visionaries-100-awards>



HALEY MATHERLY, COMMISSION STAFF, HONORED AS ONE OF "2023 KANSAS EMERGING LEADERS"

Kansas Emerging Leadership is a statewide program designed to enhance and motivate young leaders from various Kansas communities. Each year, Kansans representing a wide variety of occupations in the private, public, and non-profit sectors are nominated to apply for the program.

Twenty individuals are selected annually to participate in the program to learn about a myriad of topics important to Kansans through five monthly sessions held across the state. Upon completion of the program, the leaders will be better equipped to shoulder important leadership responsibilities in their individual careers and for their respective communities because of their experience and training through Kansas Emerging Leaders.

<https://leadershipkansas.org/leadership-kansas-announces-2023-kansas-emerging-leaders-class/>

VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHER'S RETREAT



On Saturday, November 5, 2023, the Visiting International Teachers (VITs), together with their families, met for a day of learning and networking led by Sarah Nelson. These experienced teachers, all from Spain, live and work in Kansas for up to five years as part of a cultural exchange. They teach a variety of subjects ranging from elementary education to high school chemistry. In the 2023-2024 school year, there are eight new VITs and twelve returning VITs.

Exchange teachers sharpen their professional skills and participate in cross-cultural activities in schools and communities. When they return to their home school after the exchange, they share their experiences and increased knowledge of the United States and the U.S. educational

system.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mission of Managers of Volunteer Engagement (M.O.V.E.) is to build and engage a network of volunteer managers and cultivate a volunteerism culture.

M.O.V.E. Topeka

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month
9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please visit www.moveks.org.
Or reach out via [Facebook](#).

M.O.V.E. Kansas

Statewide-Virtual

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month
9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please email
mpearson@uwkawvalley.org

Volunteer Managers Network United Way of the Plains

2023 Dates T.B.D.
12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Abel Frederic
afrederic@unitedwayplains.org

CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF



Dr. Jessica Dorsey
*Commission
Executive Director*
(785) 296-3163
jdorsey@ksde.org

Administrative Specialist
(785) 368-7436
volunteer@ksde.org



Amanda Noll
Financial Specialist
(785) 368-6207
anoll@ksde.org



Tierney Kirtdoll
*Monitoring & Grants
Coordinator*
(785) 368-6211
tkirtdoll@ksde.org



Sarah Nelson
*Training & Engagement
Coordinator*
(785) 296-7801
spalubinski@ksde.org

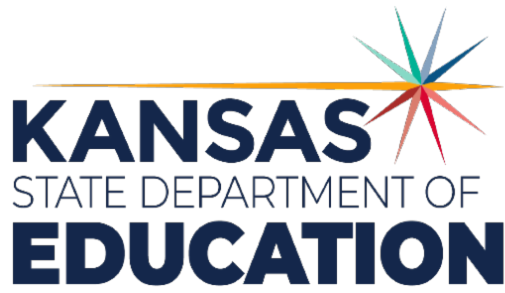


Haley Matherly
*Program Development
Coordinator*
(785) 296-5712
volunteer@ksde.org



Elaine Rodriguez
*Outreach &
Recruitment
Coordinator*
(785) 368-6232

erodriguez@ksde.org



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Kansas Volunteer Commission | 900 SW Jackson Street Suite 105, Topeka, KS 66612

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